

# Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge (Salt Pond Unit)

## Youth Hunting Brochure

December 5<sup>th</sup> – December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

*By Special Permit Only*

Welcome to the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge, along with the John H. Chafee, Block Island, Sachuest Point, and Trustum Pond National Wildlife Refuges, are part of the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex. **Specific Units of the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge are open by special permit for the regulated hunting of white-tailed deer. Be familiar with the hunt map and regulations to ensure you are hunting in an open area of the refuge.**



### Unit Description

The Salt Pond Unit is 348 acres of coastal shrubland. This unique National Wildlife Refuge was once an auxiliary airfield for the U.S. Navy during World War II. Since the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began managing the property in the 1970's this once upon a time concrete jungle is now a thriving wildlife refuge that is primarily used by migratory birds as a stopover site.

Please respect and observe refuge regulations, boundaries and safety zones. A lack of responsibility on your part could result in a reduction or closure of refuge hunting opportunities in the future.

### How to Apply

Lottery applications are typically available at <http://www.ninigretpermits.com>. Lottery applications for a total of 8 hunt permits are processed by Kinsail Corporation. Hunters also have the option of filling out a paper copy of the application and mailing it to: Kinsail Corporation, P.O. Box 7087, Arlington, VA 22207. (703) 994-4194



## All Federal and State of Rhode Island hunting regulations apply.

Refuge-Specific Hunting Regulations have been identified to facilitate a safe and quality hunt that incorporates the safety and concerns of the general public and refuge neighbors.

### General Hunting Regulations:

- A valid Rhode Island resident/non-resident state hunting license and refuge permit are required to hunt on the refuge along with a deer tag for the authorized season.
- Youth hunters age 12-14 upon completion of Hunter Safety Course, must obtain a Junior Hunting License and must hunt in immediate company of an adult 21 years of age or older with a valid RI hunting License.
- All youth hunters are required to hunt in the immediate company of an adult 21 years of age or older with a valid RI hunting License.
- Refuge hunting permits must be on person and vehicle permit must be displayed on vehicle dashboard at all times.
- *All hunters and accompanying adults must wear fluorescent orange in accordance with state regulations.*
- Hunters may access the refuge one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset.
- Hunters are only authorized to hunt in the zone assigned to them on their permit.
- All firearms must be unloaded while travelling to and from vehicle.
- Hunting is prohibited in areas designated as closed. All hunters are required to notify the refuge headquarters if they need to enter a closed area to retrieve game.
- Hunting is prohibited within 100 feet of a State, county, or city roadway, and refuge trail.
- Hunting and discharging of a firearm within 500 feet of an occupied dwelling is prohibited.
- Archery deer hunting is prohibited within 200 feet of an occupied dwelling.
- For tracking of wounded deer, hunters are allowed until 2 ½ hours after legal sunset. This may include next-day tracking on weekends with notification of refuge staff at 401-364-9124 x42.
- Damaging trees/vegetation is prohibited to include the use of any treesteps, nails, wires, screws, or bolts. Hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven or limbs have been removed is prohibited.
- Marking (this includes but is not limited to, the use of flagging, bright eyes, tacks, and paint), cutting and/or removal of trees or vegetation is prohibited.

- The taking of wildlife other than the permitted species is prohibited
- The use of spotlights, automotive headlights, or other artificial light for the purpose of spotting, locating, or taking any animal is prohibited.
- Deer drives or anyone taking part in any deer drive on the refuge is prohibited.
- The distribution of bait and/or hunting over bait is prohibited.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances is prohibited.
- The use of motorized or non-motorized vehicles on the refuge is prohibited.
- Overnight camping and fires are prohibited.
- Do not field dress animals in parking areas or within 100 feet of public use walking trails.
- Failure to follow regulations may result in a loss of refuge hunting privileges, seizure of property, and/or a fine.

### **\*\* Hunters with Disabilities:**

Please contact the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex at: 401-364-9124 ext.43 for information regarding access and hunting.

### **Closed Areas**

Not all areas of the refuge are open for hunting. Please refer to the map in this brochure to ensure that you are hunting where hunting is allowed.

### **Roads, Trails and Surrounding Properties**

Public roads and trails are located around the refuge in areas where hunting is allowed. Other outdoor enthusiasts may be using these. Please exercise caution when hunting near them. It is your responsibility to know where roads and trails are located. Also realize that some people may wander off roads and trails. Please be aware that non-hunters may not know that hunting is allowed on some parts of the refuge. Also be aware that there may be other hunters hunting on land that is used to access the refuge.

### **Refuge Management Activities**

Refuge staff, volunteers, and contractors may be working at any time on any of the refuges during hunting season. Our management activities for wildlife and habitat management are important and will continue to be conducted during the hunt season. We apologize if our activities disturb your hunt, but some disturbance will be unavoidable.

### **Parking**

Parking is available in designated lots. Vehicles may be towed at owners expense if your vehicle blocks gates, roads or buildings.

### **Refuge Boundaries**

Refuge boundaries have official Refuge Boundary Signs. Please refer to the refuge maps and call the refuge headquarters if you need clarification on a refuge boundary.

### **Reporting Requirements**

In addition to the State of Rhode Island Deer Season Kill Report Cards, each Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge Hunt permittee is required to submit an on-line Big Game Harvest Report after the season ends at <http://www.rhodeislandpermits.com>. This data will be used to help make biological/management decisions and to help gain a more accurate count of visits to the Refuge.

### **Law Enforcement**

Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by federal or state law enforcement officers.

Our wildlife is a valuable resource. Laws and regulations are intended to promote wildlife conservation. The future of hunting on the refuges requires ethical hunter behavior and compliance with regulations. You can help us by complying with these regulations, reporting unethical hunter behavior, and providing us with feedback.

For additional information on State of Rhode Island hunting regulations, please contact the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management at 401-222-6800 or [www.DEM.RI.gov](http://www.DEM.RI.gov).

Questions about refuge regulations, permits or for additional information, please contact us at:

**Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex**  
**50 Bend Road**  
**Charlestown, RI 02813**  
**401-364-9124 ext.43**

*Thank you. Have a safe and enjoyable hunting experience.*

**RIDEM 24 Hour Enforcement Hotline 401-222-3070**

